

U. S. Budget Cut Imperils Programs of Soviet Studies

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—Prof., Marshall D. Shulman, director of Columbia University's Russian Institute, said at a conference of Slavic scholars here this week that Federal spending cuts now before committees of Congress threatened to have "catastrophic effects" for Soviet studies in the United States.

He said continued Government support for scholarly research on the Soviet Union was essential because it contribute "steadiness and moderation to a public opinion that tends to alternate between unmitigated hostility and millennial optimism."

His appraisal before the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, which ended a three-day annual convention today, reflected widening concern in the scientific community at large about the future of foreign-language and area programs judged vital on intellectual and public policy grounds.

The fear that sharp bud-

getary reductions may do irreparable damage to the training of American specialists in foreign areas has been expressed by other professional associations concerned with Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

At issue in Congress is the future of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, which played a key role in fostering foreign-area training. The Nixon Administration has proposed that support for this program be reduced by two-thirds in the fiscal year beginning July 1, from \$18-million to \$6-million.

Professor Shulman recalled that a single F-111 attack plane cost more than \$16-million and that the Defense Department had ordered 547 of these aircraft. Cost overruns and technical flaws in the F-111 program are now before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on investigations.

A spokesman for all five foreign-area association, Prof. W. Theodore de Bary of Columbia University, who is president of

the Association for Asian Studies, testified March 16 before a House appropriations subcommittee headed by Representative Daniel J. Flood, Democrat of Pennsylvania.

Dr. de Bary, who is professor of Oriental Studies, recalled in a telephone interview today that he had stressed at the hearings the need for sustaining foreign area studies on a regular basis. Many members of Congress, he said, had a "basic misconception" that Government support was needed only temporarily to launch training programs that would ultimately become self-sustaining.

He expressed hope that Congress would also realize the value of foreign-area studies in relation to present domestic ethnic problems, in particular encouragement of ethnic heritages. Dr. de Bary said such a domestic study program could be usefully combined with scholarly studies on foreign cultures.

Professor de Bary said he

had been accompanied to the hearings by a group of students in the Asian area program, one of whom, Miss Carol Gluck of New York, also testified. He described them as a "new type of student activists, the constructive rather than the destructive kind."

Notes a 'Cyclical Swing'

In his talk on the future of Soviet studies in the United States, Professor Shulman said the lessening of interest in this field reflected both a "characteristic cyclical swing in the national mood toward domestic preoccupations and a healthy recovery from the disproportionate tensions of the cold-war period."

He insisted, however, that the "complex processes of change" in the Soviet Union continued to make scholarly study relevant to matters of public policy "in that it involves a subject matter vitally involved in the question of whether life can survive on this planet."

Professor Shulman, who is 53 years old, has been a key administrator of Soviet area training since 1954, when he became associate director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University.

Both Harvard and Columbia, which he joined in 1967, have been in the forefront of Russian research in the United States.

Professor Shulman welcomed a new Soviet effort to do scholarly research on the United States. A newly established institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences has begun publication of a Russian monthly journal, U.S.A.: Economics, Politics, Ideology. The journal is being printed in English by the Joint Publications Research Service, a United States Government translation agency.

Professor Shulman expressed the hope that the journal would "in time help Soviet readers to go beyond the primitive know-your-enemy stereotypes that now fill much of the Soviet